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1354
July 3, 1954
5:47 a.m.

FROM: Guatemala City

TO:

NO: 12, July 2, 7 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
JUL - 3 1954
file fyi

PRIORITY

SENT DEPARTMENT 12; REPEATED SAN SALVADOR 4.

SAN SALVADOR FOR PEURIFOY.

Thousands in mood of jubilee on packed Guatemala City's streets for several hours today awaiting arrival of Colonel Carlos Castillo Armas, hero of liberation movement, but as time passed and Castillo did not appear, crowd slowly drifted away.

Weather conditions were highly favorable, with capital having first sunny day in almost six weeks. All local radio stations were linked in national hook-up and between renditions of patriotic music urged people to turn out to greet Monzon and Castillo Armas. About noon, Lt. Colonels Cruz and DuBois, members of Junta, arrived at airport and were still awaiting at 4 p.m. when message arrived from Monzon stating trip postponed. Military band was on hand to do honors and military police endeavored control spectators but crowd broke through lines to surround and cheer Guatemalan plane which people mistakenly believed had Castillo aboard.

In all of today's activities, I could see no evidence of bad faith on part of Junta in preparing welcome for Castillo. Had he arrived as scheduled, his coming plus large turn-out plus good weather would have assured overwhelming psychological impact.

KREIG

MAM:FEH/8

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